



# SANDRONE

(Above) The historic Cannubi Cru Vineyards of Barolo, perhaps the most famous hill in Italy, where Sandrone works with several sites.



## Barbera d'Alba 2018

Barbera d'Alba, Italy

### ESTATE

Sandrone's wines are sometimes described as straddling the modern and traditional styles in the region: elegant, attractive and easy to appreciate right from their first years in bottle, but with no less power and structure than traditional Barolos.

### WINE

The Sandrone Barbera d'Alba comes from three vineyards: Merli and Rocche di San Nicola in Novello, and Cascina Pe Mol in Monforte d'Alba. It is widely considered one of the most intense and complex Barberas produced.

### VINEYARD

The wines made from the Merli vineyard are earthy and robust, but with good aromatic complexity. Rocche di San Nicola is an extremely steep vineyard at the very end of the Novello promontory. It receives incredible sun and heat and is almost constantly breezy; it is thus perfectly situated for Barbera, which thrives in these conditions.

### WINEMAKING

*Grape Varieties:* 100% Barbera

*Fermentation:* Each vineyard is vinified separately. After destemming and light crushing, the must is covered with CO<sub>2</sub> for a gentle warm maceration of approximately a day. Alcoholic fermentation begins about 24-36 hours later from native yeasts. A gentle maceration takes place in upright open-top steel tanks for the first 8-10 days of alcoholic fermentation. Immediately after alcoholic fermentation, which takes around 20 days, malolactic fermentation takes place in 500 liter French oak casks.

*Aging:* French oak casks (25% new) for 12 months, followed by 9 months of bottle aging.

*Alcohol:* 14%

### VINTAGE

After the sweltering 2017 season, 2018 began with good winter snow and spring rains that helped replenish the dry ground. The wet weather continued into April, complicating the final vineyard work somewhat and resulting in a slightly later bud break. In conclusion, we can say that it was a vintage in the traditional mold, which demanded the utmost attention of growers in their vineyard management.

### TASTING NOTE

*"The nose gives an impression of self-possessed, compact structure, which opens with air, giving more of the black plum aromas so characteristic of this wine. With coaxing, the nose reveals more black and red fruits, vanilla and spicy notes. On the palate, the characteristic freshness is front and center, with a core of fruit and sweet tannins to give balance and length. The finish is very fresh, with bright bursts of fruit and acid."*